

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 23056 01 OF 02 211716Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----013173 211719Z /43
O 211707Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5147
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 23056

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MNUC TECH PEPR PK FR
SUBJECT: PAKISTAN REPROCESSING PLANT: NEWSOM DIS-
CUSSIONS WITH FRENCH ON JULY 21

REF: (A) ISLAMABAD 7082, (B) ISLAMABAD 7021,
(C) ISLAMABAD 6960

1. SUMMARY: MFA SECRETARY GENERAL SOUTOU, WITH
JACOMET, DISCUSSED RESULTS OF JACOMET'S VISIT TO
ISLAMABAD DURING THE PERIOD JULY 17-20 WITH UNDER

SECRETARY NEWSOM, AMBASSADOR HARTMAN AND SCICOUN SALMON
ON JULY 21. JACOMET BRIEFLY OUTLINED HIS MEETINGS IN
ISLAMABAD AND RESPONSES FROM GOP OFFICIALS WHICH WERE
VERY MUCH ALONG LINES OF REFTELS A, B AND C. JACOMET
SAID THAT HE PRESENTED THE GOF'S FIRM DECISION TO STOP
ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE REPROCESSING PLANT AND THAT
IT PROPOSED TO THE GOP THAT IT JOIN IN AN INDEFINITE
DELAY OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLANT. ZIA'S
RESPONSE IN HIS MEETING WITH JACOMET ON JULY 19 WAS
TO THE EFFECT THAT THE GOP WISHED TO PROTEST THE FRENCH
UNILATERAL DECISION AND TO APPEAL BY LETTER TO GISCARD.
THUS, AS SOUTOU PRESENTED THE SITUATION, THE GOF
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PAGE 02 PARIS 23056 01 OF 02 211716Z

AWAITS THIS LETTER AND ITS PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE AND IT
WOULD THEN BE IN A POSITION TO FORMALLY TELL THE UNITED
STATES THAT ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE REPROCESSING PLANT
HAD ENDED. SOUTOU AND JACOMET ASSUMED THAT THEY WOULD
RECEIVE THE LETTER IN A WEEK OR TWO AND WOULD HOPE
THAT THEIR PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE WOULD BE PREPARED AND
DELIVERED WITHOUT DELAY. THUS, WE ARE IN A HOLDING

PATTERN UNTIL RECEIPT OF NEWS OF THE FRENCH RESPONSE AND THEIR FORMAL STATEMENT TO US THAT THEY HAVE ENDED THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROJECT.

2. JACOMET'S REVIEW OF HIS MEETING ON JULY 17 WITH THE PAK MFA FOLLOWED CLOSELY HIS APPROACH THAT WE HAD PREVIOUSLY REPORTED AND WAS COVERED BY REFTEL C. AS A SIDE NOTE, JACOMET SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN ASKED HOW IT WAS THAT THE GOF INITIALLY OBJECTED TO INFCE AND LATER JOINED THE STUDY AND NOW THE GOF TURNS AROUND AND USES INFCE AS ONE OF ITS BASES FOR PROPOSING AN INDEFINITE DELAY IN FURTHER WORK ON THE REPROCESSING PLANT. SOUTOU'S REACTION TO THAT QUESTION WAS THAT THE BASIC GOF POLICY ON NON-EXPORT OF REPROCESSING TECHNOLOGY HAD BEEN TAKEN PRIOR TO PROPOSAL BY THE US OF THE INFCE STUDY AND THAT ITS HESITATION TO JOIN INFCE WAS BASED ON ITS INSISTENCE IN GAINING A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF COMMERCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND EUROPE DURING THAT STUDY. JACOMET NOTED THAT HE HAD BEEN VERY CLEAR

WITH THE PAKS ON THE FRENCH INTENTION TO CONTINUE COOPERATION IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD WITH PAKISTAN AND FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE THIS COULD BE IN THE AREA OF COMMERCIAL NUCLEAR REACTORS AND POSSIBLY NUCLEAR FUEL FABRICATION FACILITIES.

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SECRET

PAGE 03 PARIS 23056 01 OF 02 211716Z

3. JACOMET'S COMMENTS ON HIS MEETING WITH ZIA ON JULY 19 WERE ALONG THE LINES OF THOSE PRESENTED IN REFTEL A. JACOMET SAID THAT ZIA'S REACTION WAS PRESENTED WITH OBVIOUS SELF CONTROL AND IN A MEASURED MANNER DESIGNED TO EXTRACT THE MOST FOR THE GOP. JACOMET NOTED THAT ZIA ASSUMED THAT THE FRENCH DECISION, ALTHOUGH UNILATERAL, HAD BEEN MADE IN PART UNDER THE PRESSURE OF THE USG AND THAT SHOULD IT BECOME PUBLIC IT WOULD CERTAINLY GET A BAD REACTION IN PAKISTAN. ZIA STATED THAT HE CHOSE NOT TO ACCEPT JACOMET'S MESSAGE AS THE LAST WORD FROM THE GOF, THAT HE PROTESTED THIS UNILATERAL FRENCH ACTION AND THAT HE PROPOSED TO APPEAL TO GISCARD FOR HIS RECONSIDERATION OF THE

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PAGE 01 PARIS 23056 02 OF 02 211716Z
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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 23056

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

MATTER. ZIA SAID THAT HE WOULD DO THIS IN THE FORM OF A LETTER IN THE NEAR FUTURE. JACOMET NOTED THAT ZIA DID NOT SAY THAT THE CANCELLATION OF THE CONTRACT WOULD BREAK BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH FRANCE AND HE DID NOT SAY THAT IT WOULD BREAK EXISTING COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS WITH FRANCE. JACOMET SAID THAT ZIA IMPLIED THAT THERE WOULD PROBABLY BE CONTINUING PURCHASES BY PAKISTAN OF FRENCH GOODS.

4. IN RESPONSE TO NEWSOM'S QUESTION ON TIMING, SOUTOU STATED THAT THE GOF HAD PRESENTED ITS DECISION AND THAT IT HAD AGREED TO RECEIVE THE LETTER OF APPEAL FROM ZIA. THUS THE GOF WOULD NOT BE IN A POSITION TO OFFICIALLY TELL THE US THAT IT HAD ENDED ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE CONTRACT UNTIL IT HAD RECEIVED THE LETTER AND DECIDED ON THE FRENCH RESPONSE. NEWSOM REMINDED SOUTOU OF THE PROBLEM THE USG HAS WITH FY 78 AID FUNDS WHICH MUST BE OBLIGATED DURING THIS FISCAL YEAR.

5. IN FURTHER CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN JACOMET AND SALMON, JACOMET INDICATED THAT HE WOULD PROBABLY SUGGEST THAT THE FRENCH RESPONSE BE IN THE FORM OF SENDING A HIGHER RANKING GOF OFFICIAL TO ISLAMABAD AND PERHAPS INCREASING
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 PARIS 23056 02 OF 02 211716Z

THE FRENCH CONTRIBUTION TO THE PAKS (PERHAPS CANCELLING THE DEBT ON THE REPROCESSING PLANT). WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE TIME-TABLE FOR THE WITHDRAWAL FROM PAKISTAN OF THE TWO OR THREE TECHNICIANS ON SITE, JACOMET SAID THAT HE HAD TO PROPOSE SUCH A SCHEDULE TO HIS MINISTER AND

THAT HE WOULD DO SO SHORTLY.

6. BOTH SOUTOU AND JACOMET SAID THAT THERE WAS NO CHANCE OF DECISION BEING REVERSED BUT THAT GISCARD WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY THE TACTICAL-POLITICAL PROBLEM WHICH WOULD DEPEND ON THE CONTENTS OF ZIA'S LETTER. SOUTOU EMPHASIZED THAT THE PAKS ARE SMART AND TOUGH NEGOTIATORS WHO KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT FRENCH DOMESTIC POLITICS TO MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE FRENCH. HE

ASSUMES ZIA'S LETTER WILL BE WRITTEN WITH INTENTION TO PUBLISH.

7. IN THE LATTER PART OF THE MEETING AND IN PRIVATE COMMENTS TO NEWSOM, SOUTOU GAVE PARTICULAR EMPHASIS TO FRENCH-GERMAN RELATIONS IN NUCLEAR ENERGY. THE GOF AND THE FRG HAVE ESTABLISHED EXTENSIVE COMMERCIAL AS WELL AS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IN NUCLEAR ENERGY AND, IN SOUTOU'S WORDS, IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT THEIR NON-PROLIFERATION POLICIES BE IN HARMONY WITH EACH OTHER. SOUTOU SAID THAT NOW THAT FRANCE HAS CANCELLED ITS CONTRACT WITH PAKISTAN, IT WILL WORK CLOSELY WITH THE FRG ON HARMONIZING NON-PROLIFERATION POLICIES, INCLUDING FOCUSING ON THE FRG RELATIONS WITH BRAZIL. SOUTOU NOTED, AS HE HAS REPEATEDLY DONE IN THE PAST, THAT GOF CONTINUATION WITH THE PAK REPROCESSING PLANT WAS A VERY POOR EXAMPLE TO GIVE TO THE FRG.

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PAGE 03 PARIS 23056 02 OF 02 211716Z

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Message Attributes

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